

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

### Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figures 13 and 14 should be designated by a legend such as --PRIOR ART--. Figures 13 and 14 do not correspond to any prior art documents *per se*, which is known to Applicants. Rather they generally illustrate an image forming apparatus, which is known to Applicants. Accordingly, Figures 13 and 14 are not prior art *per se* to the present application and to label the Figures 13 and 14 as such may be misdescriptive. The specification has been amended to more aptly describe Figures 13 and 14 as representing a known image forming apparatus. If the Examiner believes that the figures still require a label, she is kindly requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

The drawings are also objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference characters mentioned in the specification.

The drawings are also objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include reference characters not mentioned in the specification.

In addition, the drawing are objected to because Figure 2 contains a lead line pointing to the development blade without a reference numeral being assigned.

In response, a Submission of Corrected Sheets the Drawings is being filed concurrently herewith in which reference numerals "36" and "37" and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figures 1, 3, and 10; reference character "A" and its lead line

has been deleted from Figures 1 and 2; reference characters “12Bk”, “12C”, “12M”, and “12Y” and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figure 1; reference characters “14Bk”, “14C”, “14M”, and “14Y” and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figures 1 and 13; reference characters “11Bk”, “11C”, “11M”, and “11Y” and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figures 1 and 13; reference characters “18Bk”, “18C”, “18M”, and “18Y” and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figures 1, 3, 10, 13, and 14; and reference characters “20Bk”, “20C”, “20M”, and “20Y” and their respective lead lines have been deleted from Figure 13; reference numeral “17” has been added to Figure 2. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objections to the drawings have been overcome.

#### Title

The title has been objected to as not being descriptive. In response, a new title, which is more clearly indicative of the claimed invention, is presented herein for the Examiner’s consideration and approval.

#### Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to because of the inclusion of legal phraseology. In response, a new Abstract has been provided for the Examiner’s consideration and approval.

#### Specification

The specification is objected to because of minor informalities noted by the Examiner. The specification has been amended to attend to any identified informalities, including those kindly identified by the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

### Claims Status

Claims 1 through 44 and 46 remain pending in the application. Claim 45 has been canceled. Claims 16, 17, 32, 41, 42, and 46 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 20, 35, and 46 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

### Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 1 through 44 are allowed.

It is also acknowledged with appreciation that Claim 46 is merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In response, Claim 46 has been rewritten to include the text of Claim 45. In so doing, the recitation of the “regulating member” appearing in the last line of Claim 45 heretofore on file has been revised to more appropriately read --regulating members-- in the text added to Claim 46. (Emphasis added) The revision is appropriate given that amended Claim 46 recites a plurality of developing devices each of which includes a developer carrying member and an associated developer regulating member. Accordingly, the subsequent recitation appropriately refers to developer regulating members.

It is respectfully submitted that the objection has been overcome.

### Art Rejection

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,124,750 (Naito) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,849 (Kawasaki).

Response to Rejection

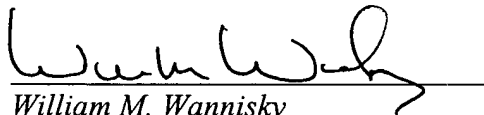
Without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely to advance prosecution, Claim 45 has been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot and further comment thereon is not necessary.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William M. Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

*William M. Wannisky*  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 28,373

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO  
30 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10112-3801  
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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